

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

February 20, 2013

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Hark Sandhu, Zena Kwan, Sandra Mankoo, Annie Hobson, Kirsten Graham, Patricia Fula, Jen Mezei, Michelle Lee

Regrets: Rhylin Bailie, Cheryl Tong, Wendell Hiltz

Meeting started 7:08pm

- Approval of January minutes: Zena Kwan firsts, Michelle Lee Seconds; minutes approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Written Report submitted by Wendell Hiltz

Our current enrolment as of January 8th is attached. We have had two new registrations since the last report.

CLASS ENROLLMENT

Date: 8 January 2013

DIV	TEACHER	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALS
1	Mrs. D. Moore								26	26
2	Mr. G. Lapthorne							1 7	11	28
3	M G. Lucarelli							1 2	11	23
4	Mme T. Whitney							1 0	12	22
5	Mrs. T. Mollica						13	1 6		29
6	Mrs. T. Bisceglia						16	1 1		28
7	Mrs. J. Boulanger					10	18			27
8	M. George March					5	23			28
9	Mrs. E. Bastone					29				29
10	Mme A. L. Richter				8	13				21
11	Mrs. L. Glavas/ Ms. C. Lundie			8	1 6					24
12	Mrs. L. Hanson			8	1 5					23
13	Mlle R. Gayton			9	1 2					21
14	Mrs. K. Kaga			2 1						21

15	Mme L. Sharples		12	8						20
16	Mlle S. Papapanagiotou		13	8						21
17	Ms. K. Robson		18							18
18	Ms. P. Graham		17							17
19	Ms. P. Tazumi	20								20
20	Mrs. S. Hope	18								18
21	Mme M. Gillingham	21								21
	FR.IMM TOTALS	21	25	25	20	19	23	23	23	177
	ENG. TOTALS	39	35	38	31	39	46	43	37	308
TOTAL										485

The February newsletter will be sent home next week. It will include many of the following highlights.

Parents of students in Grade 4 and 7 should have received information about the Ministry of Education Satisfaction Surveys. Please take the time to complete these surveys to provide information to the Ministry. There is a survey for you (the parent) and your child. There is a unique identification code attached for each one of you to the letter sent home. Please take the time to complete the survey on line. There is a link to the Survey on the Seaforth home page.

Calendar Consultation – The District is currently in the process of gathering information from parents and employees on the possibility of having a two week Spring Break for the 2013 – 2014 School Year. There is lots of information posted on the School District website and we have sent out information via the listserve. Please take the time to read and consider the information. Parents and employees are also invited to take part in a survey regarding the two-week break. Please take the time to participate in the Survey to provide your input. There will be 'A Calendar Conversation' meeting held **Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7.00 pm at Schou Education Centre 4041 Canada Way** in which parent, students, staff and the community are invited to join the discussion on the future school calendar. Information on this meeting was also sent out on the listserve. I would encourage everyone to take part in the survey and/or attend the meeting.

Just a reminder that registration is open for the month of February only. Anyone who has a Kindergarten age student who will be attending school for the fall **MUST** register them during the month of February. As well, registration for the District French Immersion Program is open for the month of February as well. If you have Kindergarten aged students or know of others who do, please make

sure they get them registered prior to March first. Make sure you are telling others about this as well.

Jennie Boulanger and I attended the ERASE Bullying Training earlier this month and will be presenting to you at a later PAC meeting. The materials for presentation to PAC are not ready at this time. Once they arrive we will be sharing them.

As part of the celebration of Carnaval again this year, we have had our Duc and Duchess of Kindness. These students were recognized at our kick off Assembly for Carnaval earlier this week. There are also many wonderful bulletin board displays throughout the school celebrating the themes of kindness, friendship, and anti-bullying. 'Hearts' of positive messages were continued as part of the Streetheart Classic again this year and the number of them was overwhelming. Students displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament and the messages they wrote to each other only reinforced this. Congratulations to all our Grade 7 participants!

Congratulations to our winner of the t-shirt design contest, Julia Han, for her excellent message – 'Kindness is Louder than Bullying'. The Manager of Communication Services for the School District was impressed with Julia's message and she ordered a t-shirt. There have been many buddy activities honoring these themes as well. The final event will be the Assembly on the 27th with the RCMP Presentation. We are looking forward to everyone wearing their Pink Shirts on that day. Let's see a sea of pink at Seaforth.

Upcoming Events:

- ✓ February 22 – **Pro D Day – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- ✓ February 25 – Grade 5 Golf Lessons
- ✓ February 27 – RCMP Presentation on Kindness/Pink Shirt Celebration

Public Speaking Finals

- ✓ February 28 – Young People's Concert
- ✓ March 4 – 7 Zumba for all grades
- ✓ March 4 – Math Fair for Grades 3,4, and 5
- ✓ March 8 – Math Fair for Grades 5, 6 and 7
- ✓ March 12 – Primary Days of Music

Ashley Spires Author Visit – Division 7 – 10

- ✓ March 13 – Wacky Wednesday
- ✓ March 14 – Report Cards sent home

District Public Speaking Finals

- ✓ March 15 – Last day before Spring Break
- ✓ March 18 – 22 – Spring Break

- ✓ March 22 – School re-opens
- ✓ March 29 – Good Friday - HOLIDAY

_____end of Principal's report _____

Calendar Consulation - 2 week vs 1 week spring break Discussion

Summary from Meeting

- Looking at having same spring break throughout Metrovancouver
- Model has been adopted in all schools except Burnaby and New Westminster
- The model was done to obtain cost savings. However, Burnaby projects we may only save 250,000 dollars.
- Synchronization supports families with kids or parents in 2 or more districts.
- Employees will benefit as well - recruitment and retaining of staff
- Spring break - no discernable loss of learning
- Some districts are looking into adding a few minutes per day to make up
- Short recess, short lunch, etc. Many proposed solutions
- Burnaby has a survey on the district website and they are trying to find out if parents will experience financial hardship.
- Question: has the decision already been made? No. The decision will be made by March 31st. Survey ends on March 6th. Input meetings will occur then to share results. The survey will guide the trustees who will make the final decision.
- This process will impact 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
- Is it an all or nothing thing? Will all districts harmonize? Not necessary is the answer. It's up to the district to make the final decision.

Treasurer's Report - Hark Sandhu

- Bank account totals: general account: \$16,657. PAC paid for ipads in January. The gaming account has \$13,708
- MunchaLunch - \$20,433 in sales
- The stove was purchased. So now the grade 7 grad fund is at about a \$750 surplus. We will be putting this surplus towards the computer purchase initiative - the money is sitting in general funds.

- Year end surplus from last years is almost all used up except the money set aside for the teacher's wish list - **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to remind teachers.**
- Computer lab - a new Windows Program is coming out and district may be installing in computers across the district. So we are waiting to purchase the computers to see what happens with the upgrades.

Safe School Committee - MaryAnn Giardini

- Pink shirt contest - 135 sold, a few left; please contact MaryAnn if you wish to buy one
- Entries received for the pink shirt contest will be displayed in the gym and then returned
- Michelle Lee will help put up the entries
- Kids are having a pink shirt assembly and a presentation by the RCMP
- Family social - we have a social committee - **May 3rd is the date of Seaforth's Family Social.** BBQ and hoe down theme. There will be a jumpy castle and a mechanical bull attraction (deposit has been paid). Other games will be held. Third party staff will run the mechanical bull. Janet Lee booked this. Dance will be held. All sorts of music will be played not just country. There will be a costume contest. We hope this event will be a major fundraiser - there will be a silent and live auction (class baskets). We will be asking for donations. Donation forms will be coming out. Kids are not allowed to bid. We will have letters we can give to potential donor establishments/businesses on Seaforth Letterhead. Can get tax receipts but there are very specific guidelines, these rules will be put in the letter to parents. We will need volunteers for that day to help.

DPAC Report - Patricia & Jen

- Conference for emergency preparedness - April 24 - will get babysitters - will be held at Seaforth in gym.
- 250 people showed up for the mindfulness presentation. There will be another in Sept.
- There will be a presentation series focus on: Digital Literacy Transitions and Careers, Core Competencies, etc. for 2013/2014.

- Budget consultations are occurring.
- **DPAC MEETING on January 28, 2013 - summary provided by Patricia - see below**
- Proposal of Mr. Kevin Kaardal, the New Superintendent of Schools in Burnaby requested a consultation regarding have a conversation about whether a common school calendar for Metro-district will work for Burnaby. Parents, students, staff and the community are invited to join the discussion on future school calendar options for spring break. Should it remain a one-week break or should we adopt the Metro-district two-week model? It will be presented at Schou Education Centre, 4041 Canada Way on Thursday, February 21 at 7 pm
- Survey and voting due date will be by March 1. Consultation results will be submitted to the Minister no later than March 31, 2013. SURVEY link (<http://www.sd41.bc.ca/schools/calendar.htm>)
- Discussion about calendars will be every year or every three years. Common calendar discussions in Metro Vancouver with other superintendents with respect to Winter and Spring Breaks.

Rationale- Benefits

- Some districts faced budget short falls. The common calendar was adopted to meet their budget responsibilities. Burnaby District doesn't have budget deficit at the moment.
- During the meeting were discussed issues regarding helping working families to balance working and living in different districts.
- Superintendent mentioned there was no discernible loss in learning due to the 5 extra days off school.
- He also mentioned there was a pressure for Burnaby to adopt the common calendar. District Employees view the two weeks spring break as a benefit. Therefore, Burnaby can keep its competitive recruitment and employee retention.
- Savings can be used to protect specialized programs. School days would be longer.
- Changes will start next year.
- DPAC needs to start discussions until March 28, 2013.

Final Business...

- April 24, 2013 there will be an Emergency Preparedness School conference
- New centralized facilities booking in Burnaby thru Burnaby web site.
- Burnaby Portables computers will be fixed soon.

- www.60minkidsclub.ca : New kids friendly website about healthy food.
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Sun Run Team - MaryAnn Giardini

- 46 people have signed up.
- We need more kids to sign up. 1 adult to a minimum of 2 kids or more. Kids are welcome to sign up; their parents do not need to sign up. One adult to three kids kind of thing and if one child needs to walk the group will walk as a group.
- There will be a specific meeting place at BC place and have arranged a bus to transport the participants. Adrienne Dall Antonia is our sun run co-ordinator. Need about 6 to 7 more kids.

Spirit Day - Mary Ann Giardini for Gail Su

- Speakers needed - ideas must be sent to Gail. Environmental theme - trying to figure out how to change some of the speakers we normally get to make it "green". We don't have a lot of parent sessions so far yet. A lot of the craft session - if we set up the craft sessions ask parents to facilitate and this is a lot easier for them. April 26th is Spirit Day.

Playground Committee - Kirsten Graham

- Plans obtained
- Connected with a couple different vendors
- Existing cover is not safe - if you kick off the gravel it has condensed into cement. The school district is responsible for this. Wendell has contact the district to get that process going. It is written into the existing budget of the school/district. One of the vendors has evaluated the playground and deemed it unsafe. We have to look at retro-fitting. There are areas of our play equipment that could be expanded. For example, the teeter totter item in the front of the school could be added to help create another area when the bigger area is under construction.
- Rough estimate: we will need \$60,000 dollars to bring existing structure up to date and to add a couple new pieces. It's going to be done in phases. We cannot retrofit the existing structure. The design is a little bit out-dated. We can't just go in and replace. The clearance dimensions have changed

and so we can't just go in and replace things. **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to talk to Tim with District - resurfacing is first step.** Need to make playground accessible. The slope is not safe - the school board is responsible for that. A cement or asphalt ramp could be installed. And this will help make our funding easier as there are grants available for wheelchair accessible playgrounds

- Highlands's playground committee will help our committee navigate the grant process. Budget timeline - March. We need to get in line for the 2013/2014 budget items.
- Is the PAC willing to get behind this big expenditure now that the computer lab is done is the question?
- We could contact the Buble family. **ACTION ITEM: April meeting - Playground committee should give a presentation regarding the playground planning done so far - prior to social.** Outstanding item - getting a teacher champion - how best to approach them. It may take some time to get this teacher champion. Create a survey for the teachers and ask to give them a survey. Could get way more information with one goes.
- The vendor has not been chosen. Mock up of a playground was presented. Connecting the pieces is one idea to make a circuit. The portables need a right of way in case they need to be moved. One idea is to move the rocker to the back and put a newer larger piece in the front. About 8000 dollars put something new exciting there. Post the plans at the Social. Fence with name plates - in honour of their donation.

Traffic Safety - Sophia

- Thanks to Patricia for volunteering.
- Call the city: 604-570-3660 - they have a mandate to respond to every single call. Burnaby By-law Enforcement. City hall could be called as well. We encourage people to park on Hunter. We also ask people not to park in the cul-de-sac on Piper.
- Crosswalk Supervision - Ann D.
- Need more volunteers.

CPF Update - Cynthia

- Parent info workshop in Jan went well
- French movie night at Sperling is upcoming
- CPF voted to give Seaforth and Sperling 500 dollars for a cultural event - M Sharples is making arrangements for a performance - may be bilingual but not sure. During school time for whatever classes wish to attend.

Hot Lunch Committee - Rishma

- Hot lunch is running smoothly but there are kids that still forget to order or order day of and use up all extras.
- Can view order online
- Email reminders are well received
- Extreme pita orders are way down - probably going take them off the order
- Most popular lunches are - sushi, McDonalds, dominos, pizza hut.
- Still short on volunteers
- **SPECIAL GROUP HOT LUNCH REQUEST: Request 8 hot lunches for Quebec hot lunch and 4 hot lunches (including Spirit Day) for the Grade 7 grad. ACTION ITEM: Pac committee to discuss at April meeting.**
- Cathy is done this year. We need someone to shadow Rishma. Siva is shadowing Cathy. Rishma does the shopping, ordering, buying, shipping.
- Rishma has started a contact list.
- You do have to pay in advance. And you have to be ok for paying for these items up front and then submit cheques.
- The hot lunch program - it is a fund raising opportunity. And as such we should let groups such as grade 7, Quebec, band etc. have priority for running the hot lunches vs. My Tiffin which is a nutritional initiative.
- Donating hot lunches that will not be eaten - could tell Rishma and Cathy by text or email that their child's hot lunch will not be eaten and could be re-sold.
- Let teachers know we will fund a stockpile of food for each classroom. Could add a line item to our budget. PROPOSAL FOR 2013/2014 budget. **GROCERY ALLOWANCE: to discuss at May/June meeting.**

- **SPECIAL GROUP HOT LUNCH REQUEST: Playground committee - requests 4 hot lunches as well for 2013/2014.**

ACTION ITEM: Rhylin and Wendell to consider these 2 requests. We are not sure of the process for making requests, evaluating requests and granting requests.

OTHER PAC BUSINESS (MaryAnn Giardini for Rhylin Bailie)

- Talk about reviving the coffee Shack - free - find out what parents concerns were. There is some interest in reviving this. The timing and location are flexible - inside/outside on a nice day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Movie Night - May - very popular - concession.
- Welcome movie/barbecue in Sept. - Annie's idea - written email to Wendell. Event in September. First friday. Charge for food. Is it too much? Could do it second week to capture the kindergarten parents. Outdoors is preferred with a movie. Could pair it with a meet the teacher hour.

ACTION ITEM: social committee determine budget for this welcome BBQ and present to PAC in the next couple meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

- Regulating requests for donations for money. Do we have anything in place? Policy is in place - fundraising groups are only allowed to have one major school fundraiser but doesn't include hot lunch. The small requests add up and it would be good to try and plan ahead and set aside money if there is a request for assistance. **FOLLOW UP: at March meeting we can ask Wendell and Rhylin to speak to this issue of fundraising at Seaforth.**
- Chess Club question - can we start it up again? Use to be run by our challenge teacher. We can find out about this - **ACTION ITEM - Rhylin/MaryAnn to approach Jenny on this**

- Loss of Parent - the affected student's classroom did something for the student - a basket was prepared and given to the family
- Principal and teacher attended funeral
- Parent felt PAC should do something to acknowledge her passing - we can donate to an organization that raises money for those who suffer from the disease that she did. Another idea is to donate a book. **ACTION ITEM: ask the husband what the preference is to honour her contribution to the school. MaryAnn will talk to Rhylin.**

Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm